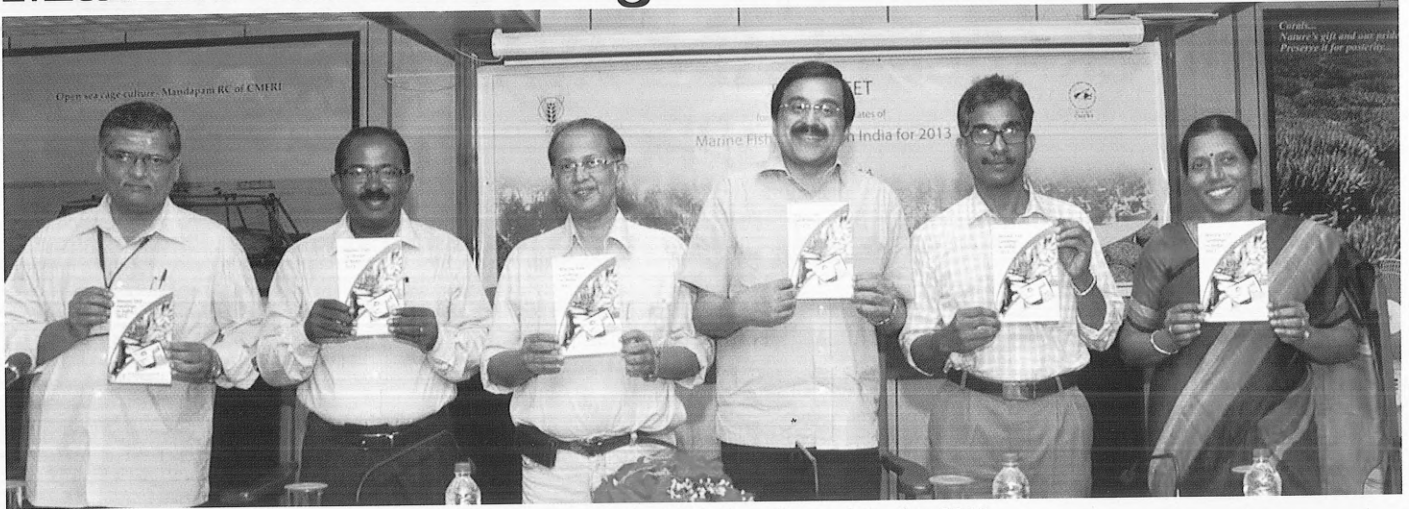


## EVENT

# CMFRI releases report on the All India Marine fish landings for 2013



**Fig 1: Release of the Fish Landings data for 2013**

Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi has estimated the total marine capture fish landings of the Indian coast, barring the island areas of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep, as 3.78 million tonnes in the year 2013. This is less than the previous year's (2012) estimate of 3.94 million tonnes, which was an all time high. The landings were contributed by the maritime States of West Bengal (2.62 lakh tonnes), Odisha (1.24 lakh tonnes), Andhra Pradesh (2.66 lakh tonnes), Puducherry (0.69 lakh tonnes), Tamil Nadu (6.88 lakh tonnes), Kerala (6.71 lakh tonnes), Karnataka (4.37 lakh tonnes), Goa (1.04 lakh tonnes), Maharashtra (3.64 lakh tonnes), Daman & Diu (0.79 lakh tonnes) and Gujarat (7.17 lakh tonnes).

Important resources that contributed to the total landings are oil sardine [6.0 lakh tonnes (15.7)], Ribbonfishes [2.5 lakh tonnes (6.7)], Non-penaeid prawns [2.1 lakh tonnes (5.6)], Indian mackerel [2.0 lakh tonnes (5.3)], penaeid prawns [2.0 lakh tonnes (5.2)] and threadfin breams [1.8 lakh tonnes (4.8)]. Though the Indian oil sardine dominated the marine capture landings with record production in 2012, the reduction is about 1.2 lakh tonnes in 2013. Hilsa landings from West Bengal showed a slight improvement to 41,448 tonnes as against 21,901 tonnes in 2011 and 9,981 tonnes in 2012 but still below the level of 84,000 tonnes in 2010. The landings of Indian mackerel showed slight improvement from 1.7 lakh tonnes in 2012 to 2.0 lakh tonnes, still below the 2.8 lakh tonnes mark in 2011.

### State-wise scenarios

In West Bengal Bombayduck, Hilsa shad, croakers, penaeid and non-penaeid prawns have shown improved landings in comparison to 2012. In Odisha, penaeid prawns, croakers and ribbon fishes have shown a reduction in their landings, whereas Indian mackerel landings were similar to 2012. Penaeid prawn, Indian mackerel, ribbon fishes, croakers and Tunnies were the major species landed in Andhra Pradesh and their quantum were relatively same as compared to 2012. Tamil Nadu saw the Oil Sardine emerging as a major species to be landed along the coast and the relegation of once dominant silver bellies to lower rungs. Puducherry catch spectrum was dominated by silver

bellies and other sardines and their landings were similar in both the years. Penaeid prawns and croakers have shown spurt in landings in 2013 as compared to 2012. Kerala witnessed a fall of its major resource viz. Oil sardine this year. Other major contributors to Kerala were Threadfin breams, cephalopods, stolephorus, Indian mackerel and scads. In Karnataka, Oil sardine which is the major contributor has witnessed a dip in 2013 as compared to the previous year. Indian mackerel and scads have recorded marginal increase in landing as compared to 2012. The other major contributors such as ribbon fishes and cephalopods are stable in their quantum of landings, whereas Threadfin breams have shown a dip after a record landing in 2012. Goa, being a purse seiner dominant state, has been flooded with pelagic catch as expected. Oil sardine is the major contributor to the landings and has not deviated much from 2012 performance. Other resources such as carangids, Indian mackerels, other sardines and tunnies have shown substantial increase over their previous year's performance. Maharashtra's spectacle has been dominated by the resurgence story of non-penaeid prawn. Other traditional resources such as Bombayduck, catfishes and ribbon fishes have shown increased landings in comparison to 2012. Gujarat which has shown a slight dip in total landings, has accounted for high contributions from ribbonfishes, non-penaeid prawns, threadfin breams, which have also recorded increased landings. The fishery of Bombayduck witnessed a slightly lesser production and the lucrative croaker fishery also had slipped a bit.

### Impact of data on stakeholders

The marine fish landing data give an indicative picture of the State-wise fish resource availability to cater our domestic and international market. The data availability will help in better management of landed resources. Heavily landed sectors may be better equipped with infrastructure enough to handle the marine fish landings. Marketing channels may be clearly planned according to the inflow and outflow of resources.

Overall production of the landings indicates that there is no



immediate threat to the fisheries sector. But State wise data are showing some interesting results. Kerala can be cited as an example where the dip in catch is due to reduction in the most dominant resource which is of Indian oil sardine. But there is no reduction in the catch per boat involved in fishing. Thus we can infer that the reduction in catch is due to less number of fishing days in the State.

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Reduction in fishing days are due to inclement weather and rough seas. Thus, a reduction in resource in a particular year is not indicating a reason to panic. But we are contemplating a complete usage of all the resources from sea as fish meal plants want raw material for their production. 'No discard' does not mean that the resources are safely utilised. Rather, there is a concerted

search for smaller and juvenile fishes to fulfill the demand of fish meal units. Such indiscriminate use of resources will result in an unsustainable fishing which can lead to collapse of marine fishery resources in the long run. CMFRI already recommended legal mesh sizes for respective fishing gears which can be strictly enforced for reducing fishing of juveniles.

